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GAME VALUE BIG FACTOR  
IN INCOME FROM FOREST

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Redington, Chief of Biological Survey, Discusses  
Wild Life Considerations and Needs at  
Commercial Forestry Conference  
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Estimating that the wild life of a single State, South Carolina, is worth approximately \$13,000,000 annually, Paul G. Redington, speaking to-day (January 22) at the South Carolina Commercial Forestry Conference at Columbia, emphasized that the wild-life conservationists of the country--professional, organized, and individual--have a direct interest in promoting the forest welfare of State and Nation.

In his dual capacity as chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, of the United States Department of Agriculture, and president of the Society of American Foresters, Mr. Redington presented important phases of the relation of animals and birds to the forests and the value of forest homes in the perpetuation of useful and interesting species of wild life. He mentioned the early influence of the large and small game of the forests, the fur bearers, and the many species of wild birds in drawing the pioneers out beyond the early frontiers, and discussed the present importance of wild life in increasing land values generally. Forested and uncultivated areas, in particular, produce crops of game and fur annually, he said, while the main forest crop is developing to maturity.

The increasing need for forest-fauna research is being recognized, and the

Biological Survey has been enabled through the McSweeney-McNary Forestry Research Act to assign trained biologists to forest experiment stations to study the interrelations of wild life and forestry, useful as well as injurious. The results of such studies, Mr. Redington said, should be highly beneficial not only economically but esthetically, and should react favorably upon the wild life itself. He announced that he had recently assigned T. D. Burleigh, a forest naturalist of the Biological Survey, to cooperate with the Forest Service at the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station, at Asheville, N. C., his territory to include South Carolina. Commenting on the progress of this work, Mr. Redington said that as both an experienced forester and a careful student of wild life, Mr. Burleigh has already developed significant and valuable information regarding the deer, fur bearers, predators, rodents, and the game birds and other birds of the region. The program of research is designed to develop fundamental facts underlying the relationships of wild life to its environment and to determine the proper relations of wild life and forest production throughout adjacent States.

An estimate of the actual value of the wild life of a State, Mr. Redington said, is arrived at through a consideration of various factors, some definite but others, of which must be approximated. The basic elements, he said, are "the flesh, fur, and feather value; the value of insectivorous habits, as of birds; the recreational value to hunters, tourists, and naturalists; and the commercial value, as it affects expenditures for hunting licenses, clothing and camping equipment, weapons, ammunition, transportation, food and lodging, and a variety of personal services. For example, considering area, topography, and other conditions in South Carolina, the wild life of the State, on its nearly 20,000,000 acres of land and water, is to be estimated as having a direct economic value of more than \$8,000,000, and recreational values of probably half as much more.

"Such enormous figures are not mere guesses but are approximated on the average acreage value of wild life. This for the eastern part of the country is arrived at by allowing a meat and fur value of 14 cents an acre, and for South Carolina this would be nearly \$2,750,000; the value of birds in destroying insects and other pests (at 26.6 cents an acre), approximately \$5,200,000; and the fish production (at 44 cents an acre of water surface), approximately \$140,000. To this total of more than \$8,000,000 is to be added recreational values arrived at from hunters' license fees (1928-29), \$142,026; expenditures of 90,781 hunters (averaging \$25 each for equipment, transportation, lodging, and other expenses), about \$2,250,000; and the share of the average expenditures that may be attributed to the drawing powers of wild life (at an acreage rate of 13 cents each), more than \$2,500,000.

"Thus, with the wild life of South Carolina approximating a value, as nearly as can be worked out, of more than \$13,000,000 annually, we have a natural resource of no small magnitude, and one well worth conserving and enlarging. Sane administration of the wild life of forest, field, and stream will develop more fully an appreciation of their great economic value, and this in turn will be reflected in the resulting values of the land and water areas on which the species make their temporary or permanent homes."

In considering the relation of the landowner to the value of the annual crop of wild life, Mr. Redington mentioned the owner's very material interest in determining and employing means for increasing the production of game on his holdings so as to make them attractive to sportsmen able and willing to compensate him for his time and effort through payment for hunting privileges. The landowner, he said, thus becomes directly interested in preventing poaching and forest fires, in repressing other destructive agencies, and in adopting constructive measures for increasing game protection.

Mr. Redington concluded with the prediction that influential organizations, State game wardens and commissioners, and State sportsmen's associations, through a pooling of finances with the agencies of the Federal Government will make effective the programs of research into problems of wild life and forestry.